

What is Claimed is:

1. An optical transmitter comprising:

a planarized header;

5 a laser mounted on a plane of the planarized header, wherein an axis of light emitted from the laser is parallel to the plane; and

a temperature sensor located on the planarized header;

wherein a temperature of the laser is obtained from an output of the temperature sensor without application of an offset to the output of the temperature sensor.

2. The optical transmitter of claim 1, wherein the temperature sensor is within 2.5 mm of the laser.

15 3. The optical transmitter of claim 1, wherein the temperature sensor is within 1 mm of the laser.

4. The optical transmitter of claim 1, wherein the laser is a semiconductor laser.